

Washington, D.C. — Rep. Charlie Wilson (OH-6) hosted a district-wide Telephone Town Hall meeting for the residents of the Ohio River Valley yesterday. 7,784 callers took part in the telephone meeting.

Congressman Wilson opened with a brief report about the need to get the national debt and deficit spending under control.

"I share the concerns that many Americans have about our country's financial future," Wilson said. "With escalating spending and a growing national debt, there is a legitimate concern about how we begin to correct our economic course. As a Blue Dog Democrat, I have always taken tackling our debt very seriously.

"That's why, in early June I unveiled a package of 10 bills that I am either sponsoring or co-sponsoring that are designed to tackle the debt.

"They make sure that government does what most families do when the economy isn't good: 1. they make common sense spending decisions; 2. they trim the fat, and; 3. They chip away at their debt.

"And I'm happy to report that since I unveiled the package 5 of those bills have either already passed the House or been enacted into law."

There were several questions about Cap and Trade, which Wilson voted against. He assured callers that he would continue to fight against policies that could potentially harm the Ohio Valley coal industry.

Callers also asked several questions about Veterans benefits and the problem of off shoring American jobs under free trade agreements.

"I'm against NAFTA, CAFTA and any other AFTA," Wilson told the thousands of participants on the call. He added that he supports fair trade, but not free trade that ships good jobs overseas.

The Sixth Congressional district is shaped such that it lacks a city center and spans the coverage area of five media markets including: Huntington, Athens, Parkersburg, Wheeling-Steubenville, and Youngstown.

"The telephone town halls are made for districts like ours," Wilson said. "There is simply no other way that I could talk with so many constituents at once about important issues like our national debt, energy, Veterans and jobs."

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